Established 1972



## 2012

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## **Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association**

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## TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER JENNINGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFTEY COMMITTEE MARCH 6. 2012

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures, and which represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut, submits comments regarding the following bills:

Concerning SB-320, AAC Fire Prevention Code Regulations — CHCC is concerned that this legislation further confuses the timeline for adoption and implementation of fire codes. CHCC is concerned that the code adoption process is becoming cumbersome and often does not include industry input from the skilled tradespersons in the field who are actually responsible for constructing and renovating to the various codes and standards. Specific to the fire prevention code, CHCC feels that NFPA31 and NFPA54 need to be updated in a timelier manner.

Opposing SB-323, AAC Crane Operators — CHCC opposes this bill because our contractors are concerned that this legislation could have broad implications for our industry. CHCC Is concerned that problems could arise surrounding certain truck mounted hoists that lift equipment on and off of flatbed trucks used by our contractors. While we understand this legislation may be an attempt to conform with new federal OSHA regulations, CHCC is concerned that there will be some significant additional regulatory burdens on HVAC contractors as the state attempts to implement the changes. Specifically, the effective date, the type of hoisting equipment covered, operators in training requirements, and compliance with certifications, all have the potential to burden contractors and cause confusion across the licensed trades.

Opposing HB-5383, AA Requiring Carbon Monoxide and Oxygen Sensors on Portable Electric Generators – CHCC is concerned that this legislation may appear to possibly condone the practice of indoor usage of such generators if in fact they contain the required oxygen and carbon monoxide detectors. This would be contrary to public safety, as the use of such sensors could give a false impression that is acceptable to run a generator in a basement or living room. Furthermore, CHCC is unsure about the availability of this type of equipment in the marketplace. As such, public policy considerations must examine any potential price premium such a requirement would carry on the equipment, and what that means for the workplace where many contractors routinely and safely utilize existing portable generating equipment on a regular basis.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.